

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A display device that displays an image based on image data supplied from a center device, the display device comprising:

a receiver receiving data from the center device; and

a visual disturbance hiding unit that hides disturbance in the image caused by image switching, in response to the display device receiving, via the receiver, switching-related data indicating information with regard to the image switching of the image data by the center device, the switching-related data being transmitted from the center device (i) as an acknowledgement of receiving a request from the display device for performing the image switching, or (ii) after the center device acknowledges the request for the image switching, the image data being data having been encoded,

the display device further comprising:

a decoder that decodes the image data having been encoded,

the visual disturbance hiding unit starting to hide the disturbance when a certain time elapses from a time point of acquiring the switching-related data, the certain time being shorter than a delay time from receipt of the image data to display of the image by a time required for decoding the image data by the decoder.

2. (Previously Presented) The display device as defined in claim 1, wherein, the switching-related data is transmitted when the center device completes the image switching.

3. (Previously Presented) The display device as defined in claim 1, wherein a period during which the visual disturbance hiding unit hides the disturbance is set in accordance with a delay time from receipt of the image data to display of the image.

4. (Previously Presented) The display device as defined in claim 1, wherein the image data is encoded data, the display device further comprising:

a decoder that decodes the image data having been encoded,

a period during which the visual disturbance hiding unit hides the disturbance being set in accordance with a period required for decoding the image data by the decoder.

5-6. (Canceled).

7. (Previously Presented) A display device that displays an image based on image data supplied from a center device, the image data being encoded by the center device, the display device comprising:

a receiver receiving data from the center device;

a decoder decoding the image data having been encoded; and

a visual disturbance hiding unit that hides disturbance of the image caused by image switching of the image data by the center device,

the visual disturbance hiding unit determining when to stop hiding the disturbance, in accordance with a time point at which the display device receives, separately from the image data having been encoded and before the display device receives the image data having been encoded, via the receiver, a first stamp which is generated when the image data switched by the

center device is encoded and which indicates time information for synchronizing encoding performed by the center device with decoding performed by the decoder.

8. (Previously Presented) The display device as defined in claim 7, wherein
a time when the visual disturbance hiding unit stops hiding the disturbance is determined in accordance with a time point of acquiring the first time stamp, and
a second time stamp indicating when the decoder starts to decode the image data.

9. (Previously Presented) The display device as defined in claim 1, wherein the visual disturbance hiding unit hides the disturbance of the image by stopping displaying the image.

10. (Previously Presented) The display device as defined in claim 1, further comprising:
a transmitter transmitting data to the center device; and
a switching command transmission controller controlling and causing the transmitter to send, to the center device, switching demand data that demands switching of the image data.

11. (Currently Amended) A center device that transmits image data to a display device in order to display an image on the display device, the center device comprising:
a transmitter transmitting data to the display device;
an image switching unit switching the image data to be transmitted;
an encoder that encodes the image data; and
a switching-related data transmission controller that, when the image switching unit performs image switching so as to switch the image data, obtains switching-related data

indicating information regarding the image switching, and controls and causes the transmitter to transmit, independently of the image data, the obtained switching-related data to the display device (i) as an acknowledgement of receiving a request for the image switching from the display device, or (ii) after the center device acknowledges the request for the image switching, as a result, the display device starting to hide the disturbance when a certain time elapses from a time point of acquiring, by the display device, the switching-related data from the center device, the certain time being shorter than a delay time from receipt, by the display device, of the image data to display of the image by a time required for decoding the image data by the display device.

12. (Previously Presented) The center device as defined in claim 11, wherein the switching-related data is transmitted when the image switching unit completes the image switching.

13. (Previously Presented) The center device as defined in claim 11, further comprising an encoder configured to encode the image data, the transmitter transmitting, to the display device, the image data encoded by the encoder.

14. (Previously Presented) A center device that transmits image data to a display device in order to display an image on the display device, the center device comprising:

- a transmitter transmitting data to the display device;
- an image switching unit switching the image data to be transmitted;
- an encoder configured to encode the image data; and

a time stamp transmission controller that controls and causes the transmitter to obtain a first time stamp which is generated when the encoder encodes the image data switched by the image switching unit and which indicates time information for synchronizing encoding performed by the encoder with decoding performed by the display device, and to transmit the obtained first time stamp to the display device, separately from the image data having been encoded and before the image data having been encoded is transmitted.

15. (Previously Presented) The center device as defined in claim 11, further comprising:
a receiver receiving data from the display device;
a switching demand acquiring unit configured to acquire, via the receiver, switching demand data that demands switching of the image data; and
an image switching controller controlling and causing the image switching unit to switch the image data in accordance with the switching demand data obtained by the switching demand acquiring unit.

16. (Previously Presented) The center device as defined in claim 11, wherein the image switching unit is a tuner for selecting image data of being currently broadcast.

17. (Previously Presented) The center device as defined in claim 11, wherein the image switching unit is a selector that selects one of sets of image data supplied from outside.

18. (Previously Presented) An image display system, wherein the center device defined in claim 11 sends the image data to the display device, and the display device displays an image based on the image data.

19. (Previously Presented) The image display system as defined in claim 18, wherein the display device is attachable to the center device.

20. (Currently Amended) A display device control method for controlling a display device that displays an image based on image data supplied from a center device, the method comprising:

transmitting to the center device a request for switching the image data;

receiving from the center device switching-related data indicating information which is transmitted, when the center device performs image switching of the image data, (i) as an acknowledgement of the request for the image switching, or (ii) after the center device acknowledges the request for the image switching; and

hiding, upon reception of the switching-related data, visual disturbance as a result of the image switching,

the image data being encoded data,

the visual disturbance hiding unit starting to hide the disturbance when a certain time elapses from a time point of acquiring the switching-related data, the certain time being shorter than a delay time from receipt of the image data to display of the image by a time required for decoding the image data by a decoder that decodes the image data having been encoded.

21. (Previously Presented) A display device control method for controlling a display device that displays an image based on image data supplied from a center device, the method comprising:

hiding disturbance of the image caused by image switching of the image data by the center device;

receiving a first time stamp separately from the image data having been encoded and before receiving the image data having been encoded, the first time stamp being generated when the image data switched by the center device is encoded, the first time stamp indicating time information for synchronizing encoding thus performed by the center device with decoding of the image data having been encoded, the decoding performed by the display device; and

determining a time to stop hiding the disturbance, based on a time when the display device receives the first time stamp.

22. (Currently Amended) A center device control method for controlling a center device that sends image data to a display device in order to display an image on the display device, the method comprising:

receiving a request for performing image switching;

performing image switching of the image data to be transmitted;

encoding the image data;

obtaining, in a case where the image switching is performed, switching-related data indicating information regarding the image switching; and

transmitting obtained switching-related data from the center device to the display device independently of the image data (i) as an acknowledgement of receiving the request for

performing image switching or (ii) after the center device acknowledges the request for the image switching, as a result, the display device starting to hide the disturbance when a certain time elapses from a time point of acquiring, by the display device, the switching-related data from the center device, the certain time being shorter than a delay time from receipt, by the display device, of the image data to display of the image by a time required for decoding the image data by the display device.

23. (Currently Amended) A center device control method for controlling a center device that transmits image data to a display device in order to display an image on the display device, the method comprising:

switching the image data to be transmitted;

encoding the image data ~~thus-switched~~;

generating a first time stamp indicating time information for synchronizing the encoding performed by the center device with decoding of the image data having been encoded, the decoding performed by the display device, when the image data is encoded in the encoding; and transmitting the first time stamp to the display device separately from the image data having been encoded and before transmitting the image data having been encoded to the display device.

24. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable recording medium encoded with instructions, wherein the instructions when executed by a computer cause the computer to perform the method recited in claim 20.

25. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable recording medium encoded with instructions, wherein the instructions when executed by a computer cause the computer to perform the method recited in claim 22.

26-27. (Canceled).